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REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were originally pending in this application. Two new dependent claims (19 and 20) were added in the last response. For unknown reasons, these new claims are not addressed in the Final Rejection. Clarification is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gott GB 2,041 in view of Garick, U.S. Patent No. 3,758,329 as set forth in the previous office action, paragraph no. 2, and further in view of WO 00/41523.

By the addition of WO 00/41523, the Examiner admits that Gott and Garick do not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention because the coating taught herein is **discontinuous** – which is neither taught nor suggested by Gott and/or Garick.

The Examiner then cites a **non-prior art document**, namely a PCT Application published on 20 July 2000, for the required teaching that aligned fibers may be bonded with a discontinuous coating so that the resulting bonded array has a more fabric-like feel and is breathable. This is improper.

As previously clarified (in the last response), the present invention has a priority date of **20 September 1999** which prevents the proper use of WO 00/41523 as prior art herein. The present specification has been amended to recite the following:

This application is the Section 371(c) filing of copending PCT Application No. PCT/US00/25681, filed 20 September 2000, which designated the United States and was published in the English language as PCT Publication No. WO 01/21877 on 29 March 2001. The PCT Application claims priority from commonly owned

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U.S. Provisional Application, U.S.S.N. 60/155,365, filed 20 September 1999, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Given the fact that the prior art properly relied upon by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest the invention defined in pending Claims 1-20, this application should be passed to allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Entry of the present response for purposes of appeal is respectfully requested. Entry is necessary because Applicant believes that the claims are still in condition for allowance notwithstanding the cited art and the Examiner's arguments thereunder.

The present remarks were not submitted at an earlier date as the Examiner's rejection is new, and the previous grounds for rejection were believed to have been fully met by the amendments and remarks made in the response to the last Office Action. Thus, this response represents the Applicant's only opportunity to make the present remarks a part of the record in this application.

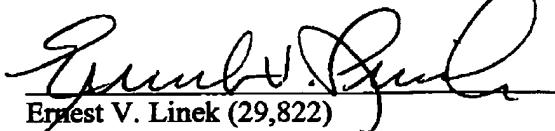
Entry is finally believed proper at this time because the remarks do not raise any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search, since they merely relate the fact that the newly cited PCT Publication is not prior art herein.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence was submitted by facsimile in the USPTO on the date shown on Page 1.

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Respectfully submitted,



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